GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3991
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Automation Impact on Jobs
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of employing robots to dispose of office works has been commenced in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether thousands of employees are likely to be rendered jobless as a result thereof;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(d) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme for such employees; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): According to the World Development Report (WDR) 2016 of World Bank based on technological feasibility, 69% of jobs in India are susceptible to automation.

Employment generation has been an important priority of the Government. Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations. To cater to technological advances in industry including automation, Government is implementing various schemes like Make in India, Skill India, Digital India etc. Skilling of workforce under skill India is a major thrust of the Government to meet the changing needs of industry. A new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been established to coordinate the skill activities across Ministries. In order to improve the employability of youth, around 20 Ministries run skill development schemes across 70 sectors.

Further, To assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India since January, 2009, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been conducting Quarterly Quick Employment surveys in the selected labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors namely textiles including apparels, metals, gems & jewellery, automobiles, transport, IT/BPO, leather and handloom/power loom. The coverage of the quarterly Quick Employment Survey has since been enhanced during 2016 with more industries/sectors and as per the results of the Survey during 2016, the net addition of jobs during the quarter ending September, 2016 over the quarter ending June, 2016 were 0.77 lakh workers.

In addition, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Under the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana (RGSKY) unemployment allowance is paid to the insured person of Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for a maximum period of twelve months who has been rendered unemployed involuntarily on account of closure of factory/establishment, retrenchment or permanent invalidity etc.

A new Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" has been initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the year 2016-17 for incentivising industry for promoting employment generation with the allocation of Rs. 1000 crore. Under this scheme employers would be provided an incentive to enhance employment where the Government will pay the employer's contribution of 8.33% EPS made to new employees. In textiles (apparel and made-ups) sector, the Government will also pay the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition to paying the 8.33% EPS contribution. Government has announced a booster package of Rs 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector.

Government has also implemented the National Career Service having a portal (www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers and provide other employment related services.

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